CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

CD NO.

FD 36

COUNTRY	Poland	DATE DISTR.	8 JUN 50
SUBJECT	The Azot Chemical Factory at Jaworzno	NO. OF PAGES	3
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted] 25X1A	NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	2
DATE OF INFO.	Prior to August 1948	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	25X1X

[redacted]

1. The Azot Chemical Factory is located about 1.5 km. south-southeast of the center of Jaworzno, which lies about 15 km. east of Kattowitz (Katowice). Jaworzno is the terminus of a coal-transporting railroad which crosses the Oswiecim-Trzebinia Line about 15 km. southeast of Jaworzno and ends at the Bolecin Station on the Spytkowice-Trzebinia Line.

2. The factory was built by the Poles about 1928 and was kept running at top speed during the German occupation. Since 1945, however, two additional large buildings have been erected, and another building was to be constructed in the summer of 1948. The size of the factory area is estimated to be 700 by 400 m. The area is, in the main, only sparsely built up since it is a chemical factory. Space is still probably available for expansion, especially in the eastern half of the factory area, but no immediate plans for such expansion are known.

3. The following are the most important installations within the Azot Chemical Factory:

   a. The boiler room and turbine plant form the largest single building unit in the plants. They have one front about 100 m. long and are located in the northern half of the works and south of the main gate. The boiler room supplies steam for production and the generation of power and contains six large boilers equipped with sliding grates, which make the boilers very effective as blast furnaces. Coal is supplied automatically from the coal bunker, which is situated west of the boiler room, by means of a steam shovel and a feeder-belt. The coal bunker receives the coal on the factory-owned railroad from the Bierut mines which are located about 1.5 km. northeast of the factory. The turbine plant supplies all the power needed by the factory.

   b. The electrolysis plant is one of the very modern and newly equipped sections of the chemical factory. It is reported that metallic sodium from sodium hydroxide is produced here. Electrolysis is considered to be one of the most essential operations of the whole plant. The electrolysis building, with space left for a passageway, is adjacent to the boiler room and turbine plant on the east side.

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

						DISTRIBUTION	
STATE	X	NAVY	X	NSRB			
ARMY	X	AIR		FBI			

c. Production of hydrochloric acid is concentrated in a rather small barrack-sized shop, about 40 m. x 16 m. in the south-western part of the factory area. To this shop belong a smaller building which lies to the north and a storage place for bottles which lies to the east. Hydrochloric acid is shipped in 50 liter bottles. Of significance is the supply of 1,000 liter bottles, which are found stored in large quantities.

d. At the "Tri" fluid production plant, carbide alcohol is probably produced since calcium carbide is a base product here and a benzine-like fluid is an end product. The latter is used to remove grease in vulcanizing plants. The "Tri" fluid is colorless, and its production is important. At present, "Tri" fluid is produced in two installations, one old and one new, which are located in the southwestern portion of the factory area. The old production building is south of the hydrochloric acid plant and is about the size of an average barracks (about 40 m. x 12 or 16 m.). The new building, somewhat larger than the old one (about 80 m. x 16 m.), is north of the hydrochloric acid plant. The new building was equipped with Swedish machinery and was first ready for production in 1948. The "Tri" fluid is stored in the same area and in the same 1,000 liter bottles as is the hydrochloric acid. A considerable quantity of calcium carbide which is used in the production of "Tri" fluid is stored in the extreme southwest corner of the factory area. South of, and adjacent to, the electrolysis plant is a walled, silo-type, pool reportedly containing calcium carbide slime.*

e. The section for the preparation of arsenic is housed in a building somewhat distant from the rest of the factory compound on the edge of a small woods in the southeastern part of the factory area. It is known by the name "Brigitte". The work here is carried out under strict precautionary measures. It is believed that arsenate of lime and arsenic are the main products.

f. The production of chloride of lime takes place in a barracks-sized building south of the coal bunker. Work is carried on here under strict precautionary measures. Workers spend their recess time in a small building which is located east of the production shop. Chlorine gas appears to be made in the so-called "poison chamber", where the employees use gasmasks at all times.**

g. The production of insecticides is carried out in a building which is a little larger than a normal-sized barracks. The building lies to the east of the "Tri" fluid production building and the new storehouse. In small, separated departments, insecticides for the extermination of potato bugs, rapeseed bugs, rats, mice, fruittree pests, and other pests, are produced. Among these insecticides is one known as "Agran", which is said to have proven especially effective against the corn-borer.

h. The caustic-soda production plant is of special importance in the electrolysis process. The plant is located in a building about the size of a barracks directly southeast, and adjacent to, the electrolysis building. It is reported to be excellently equipped and produces sodium hydroxide, which is an important product.

i. The potash production plant with its production shops is located south of, and adjacent to, the caustic soda plant.

j. The plant for the production of copper sulphate from azure stone concentrates primarily on the production of caustics. In addition to the main building, which is scarcely larger than a normal-sized barracks, there is a smaller building, lying a short distance to the south, in which copper wires and copper remnants are said to be melted down. The main building is south of, and adjacent to, the potash production building.

k. The production of poison gas takes place in the "poison chamber", as described in paragraph 3f. This "chamber" is located a short distance northeast of the electrolysis building.

25X1A [redacted]

l. The laboratory is near the main entrance and south of the administrative building, which is itself just southeast of the entrance.

m. The locksmith shop and the forge, housed together in a rather large building, are a little to the east of the insecticide shop. They are small workshops which were established to make repairs on factory installations. A cooperage, whose task it is to make tubs and barrels, has been set up north of the "Tri" fluid production plant. A garage has been built on the right side of the entrance and it is joined to a small repair shop.

n. A large number of storehouses and storage areas belong to the factory. The "old storehouse" is to be found northeast of the electrolysis plant. The "main storehouse", west of the boiler-turbine installation, is almost square in outline and is about 30 m. x 25 m. in size; it has a main line and a narrow-gauge railway. The "new storehouse" which was built early in 1945 is about 80 m. x 12-16 m. in size. It is divided into numerous sections and is situated opposite the "Tri" fluid production plant in an easterly direction. The large bottle storage sections mentioned in paragraph 3c and d are capable of keeping rather large quantities of hydrochloric acid and "Tri" fluid. Two rather small phosphorous bunkers are to be found in a remote section near the western edge of the complex. These are cellar-like storage rooms and can be reached by descending several steps. Finally, there is a pure water reservoir, which is fed by a stream flowing through the complex, and the water is supplied to each installation by means of a pump station.

4. The factory has its own railroad spurs which connect with the railroad to Trzebinia. In addition, for internal use, it has its own narrow-gauge railroad to join the important sections within the works area and to carry ashes and cinders to the cinder pile located in the northeastern part of the compound.

5. The exact volume of production at Azot is not known. Four or five loaded trucks have been seen leaving the factory on many days. A truck loaded with hydrochloric acid, for example, is dispatched once weekly in small lots.

6. Raw materials used in production include: potassium salts; distillery residues (beetroot molasses); pure phosphorus; pure arsenic; soapstone; prepared chalk; carbide; old copper; and chlorine from Nitterfeld. The rather large stocks of phosphorus are reported to stem from the time of the German occupation.

7. The number of poisoned personnel has always been considerable. Arsenic poisoning has been the most common type and is chiefly noticed among the prisoners. It takes the form of swollen faces and sores between the thighs. Special regulations for the prevention of poisoning have been issued to those working in the "Brigitte" building, in the chlorine plant, and in the insecticides section.

8. The number of personnel is small because of the comparatively modern equipment. It is believed that not more than 400-500 workers enter the factory area for each shift. The work is carried on in two or three shifts, according to the importance of the section, the production assignment, and the production process. Management of the factory is in the hands of a Pole. A German engineer who had served with the German army is active in the office and prepares the building plans.

9. The factory guard consists of factory workers, who are armed with carbines. 25X1X
The whole factory compound is under constant guard.

* [redacted] Comment: It is more probable that this pool contains a by-product or waste-product of electrolysis. Furthermore, the cooling tower shown at this place on the sketch should be moved a little to the west and just south of 25X1X
the boiler room.

** [redacted] Comment: Phosphorus may be produced here since rather large amounts of phosphorus are stored within this area.

Encls: Attachment I - Sketch of Azot Chemical Factory, with key.
Attachment II - Sketch showing location of Azot Chemical Factory.